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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 HA-05 EB-08
COME-00 AID-05 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EUR-12 /114 W
----------082090 230546Z /16
R 222220Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8150
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2548

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM ES
SUBJ: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON KIDNAPPING OF JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2521

1. LOCAL PRESS MAY 22 CARRIED LARGE PAID ADS STATING THAT FAMILY OF MR MATSUMOTO AND INSINCA (HIS COMPANY), IN COMPLIANCE WITH DEMAND MADE BY FARN, WERE PUBLISHING FACT THAT A CONDITION FOR RELEASE OF MATSUMOTO WAS THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS (SEE REFTEL). A LIST OF 23 NAMES FOLLOWED. AD CONCLUDED WITH PLEA FOR IMMEDIATE EVIDENCE OF STATE OF HEALTH OF MATSUMOTO. THERE WAS ALSO SMALL NEWS ITEM IN PRESS STATING THAT ABOLISHMENT OF LAW OF DEFENSE AND GUARANTEE OF PUBLIC ORDER WAS ALSO CONDITION OF MATSUMOTO'S RELEASE. NO MEDIA COVERAGE OF ADDITIONAL THREE DEMANDS NOTED IN REFTEL. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC RESPONSE BY GOES TO POLITICAL PRISONER DEMANDS AS YET.
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2. JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARIES NISHIMURA AND UENO VISITED EMBASSY TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS FOR AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS CONCERNED, AND REQUEST CERTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. SEVERAL PERTAINENT POINTS FROM DISCUSSION. GOES (INCLUDING PRESIDENT ROMERO AND PRESUMABLY SECURITY FORCES) HAS COPY OF

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FULL LIST OF FARN DEMANDS AND DETAILS FOR PAYMENT, FUTURE MEETINGS AND CONTACTS, WHICH THEY OBTAINED FROM INSINCA (PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SECRETARY IS VICE-PRESIDENT OF COMPANY). PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY TOLD JAPANESE AMBASSADOR DURING THEIR MEETING MAY 20 THAT GOES WOULD HONOR NONE OF THE DEMANDS OF FARN.

3. JAPANESE OFFICIALS CONTINUING TO WORK BEHIND SCENES AND HAVING FAMILY AND COMPANY TRY TO NEGOTIATE WITH FARN. PAYMENT OF ONE-HALF RANSOM (I.E. $2,000,000) WAS TO BE PAID AT 3 PM AFTERNOON MAY 22. FAMILY AND COMPANY SENDING REPRESENTATIVE WHO HOPES TO CONTACT FARN WITH LETTER STATING THAT THEY HAVE TRIED TO COMPLY WITH DEMANDS BUT POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS ARE BEYOND THEIR CONTROL AND DECISION. LETTER STATES THAT MATSUMOTO IS NEITHER OWNER NOR PARTNER OF INSINCA, MERELY EMPLOYEE, AND HIS RESOURCES ARE VERY LIMITED. ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT IF FARN COULD LEVY MORE REASONABLE FINANCIAL DEMANDS AND OFFER ASSURANCES OF MATSUMOTO'S STATE OF HEALTH, THAT FAMILY AND COMPANY WOULD NEGOTIATE ON THIS ISSUE.

4. COMMENT. FARN WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR POLITICAL DEMANDS TO GAIN MAXIMUM PUBLICITY. PRESIDENT AND GOES APPEAR HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO GRANT ANY CONCESSIONS ON POLITICAL ISSUES. QUESTION NOW BECOMES ONE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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WHETHER FARN WILL SETTLE FOR NEGOTIATED RANSOM (WHICH JAPANESE ARE PREPARED TO PAY), OR WILL CARRY OUT ORIGINAL THREAT TO EXECUTE MATSUMOTO IF ALL DEMANDS NOT MET. JAPANESE OFFICIALS ALSO INDICATED THEY WILL WANT GUARANTEES (E.G., DEPOSIT OF MONEY IN SWITZERLAND) THAT THEY WILL NOT BE PAYING LARGE RANSOM FOR RETURN OF DEAD BODY. FARN AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS HAVE NOT OPERATED THIS WAY IN PREVIOUS KIDNAPPINGS AND GUARANTEES OF SIMULTANEOUS EXCHANGE OF MONEY FOR MATSUMOTO MAY BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. NO MATTER WHAT OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS, APPEARS BIG LOSER IN THIS AFFAIR WILL BE GOES SINCE ALL FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN AND COMPANIES WILL CERTAINLY BE AFFECTED. JAPANESE OFFICIALS AGAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY INFORMATION AND ADVICE AND PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.
DEVINE

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